

the ancient American colony persists in this sheltered situation in Vermont, as does *Arenaria macrophylla*, and as, in better known stations, do *Diapensia lapponica*, *Cassiope hypnoides*, and scores of other plants of more northern origin.<sup>1</sup>

If this be the true explanation of the source of the Cavendish colony of *Rubus idaeus*, var. *anomalus*, the plant must have occurred among the Green Mountains for thousands of years; but that it is extremely local and scarce is obvious from the fact that it has remained unobserved upon this continent until the present year. This extreme scarcity of the plant, in a region where the climatic conditions seem favorable, is probably due to the usual sterility of the drupes as emphasized by the European authors who have studied the plant, and as likewise observed by Mr. Eggleston at the Vermont station.

If, on the other hand, the Cavendish plant is considered a reversion of the glandular *Rubus strigosus*, we are adding nothing to the argument that the American and European species are distinct, for, if the two plants produce occasional sports so similar as to be undistinguishable, we have fair evidence of their common ancestry if not identity. In view of the extreme inconstancy of the glandular character of the two plants — the chief character relied upon to separate them — it seems best to consider our American *R. strigosus* specifically identical with the European *R. idaeus*, and to treat the small round-leaved variety from the Green Mountains as *R. idaeus*, var. *anomalus*.

#### GRAY HERBARIUM.

Explanation of Plate 20. *Rubus idaeus*, L., var. *anomalus*, Arrhenius, drawn from a Vermont specimen by C. E. Faxon.

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COMMELINA VIRGINICA ESTABLISHED IN NEW ENGLAND.—*Commelina Virginica*, recorded in the Manual as occurring from New York southward, has now for some years maintained itself perfectly in several parts of Providence, coming up each year and blooming profusely. It escapes from hot houses and winter gardens.—W. W. BAILEY, Brown University.

[In some places about Boston and Cambridge, this *Commelina* has persisted for years in damp yards and in waste ground.—ED.]

<sup>1</sup> See RHODORA, ii, 138-139.